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Human rights situations that require the Council's attention

Written statement* submitted by the Women's Human Rights International Association, a non-governmental organization in special consultative status

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[31 August 2015]

* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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Executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the increasing trend in the systematic violation of human rights is a matter of great concern

Violations of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran have continued unabated for three decades. With over 2000 executions since Rouhani assumed office, Irans government ranks first in the world in executions per capita and it executes the greatest number of juveniles.

On July 23, 2015 Amnesty international reported: "*The Iranian authorities are believed to have executed an astonishing 694 people between 1 January and 15 July 2015 . . . This is equivalent to executing more than three people per day. . . . Iran's staggering execution toll for the first half of this year paints a sinister picture of the machinery of the state carrying out premeditated, judiciary-sanctioned killings on a mass scale*"

Iran ranks first in the execution of juveniles. Execution of ethnic and religious minorities has regrettably increased. A number of Christian pastors have been imprisoned for defending their beliefs. Violation of the rights of minorities, women's rights, civil rights and anti-democratic foundations have been inscribed into the constitution and laws of the country.

In summer of 1988, following a fatwa by Khomeini, 30,000 political prisoners, mostly affiliated with the PMOI, whom refused to abandon their political beliefs were massacred. Human rights organizations have described it as a 'crime against humanity'. Those responsible for this massacre, continue to hold key positions in the government. Mostafa Pourmohammadi and Ibrahim Raeisi, two of the members of the death committee created by Khomeini to carry out the massacre are respectively the Minister of Judiciary and Prosecutor General.

On August 5, 2015, Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights expressed his concern about the situation of human rights, especially the executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, and said: "*Iran's use of the death penalty has long been problematic.*" He added: "*I urge the Government of Iran to immediately impose a moratorium on all executions and to work with us and other partners on alternative strategies to combat crime*".

Iranian refugees living abroad are faced with a variety of conspiracies and suppressive measures by the Iranian authorities. Ashraf and Liberty, camps of Iranian refugees in Iraq which in principal are protected under the Fourth Geneva Convention have been faced with numerous attacks in recent years at the behest of the Iranian government and are currently under siege. Since 2009, 117 inhabitants of the camps have been killed through the attacks and 26 people have died due to the medical blockade imposed.

We the signatories of this statement share the concern of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights.

We urge the employment of all legal international instruments to bring to a halt Iran's executions and ask all countries of the United Nations to place the moratorium on executions as a precondition for their relations with the government of Iran.

We call on the UN Security Council to take note of executions in the Islamic Republic of Iran, particularly the execution of political prisoners and other gross violations of human rights, with an aim to transmit the information to the International Criminal Court.

We urge that the basic rights and security of the Iranian refugees in Camp Liberty, Iraq, be guaranteed.